

# Fort Davis

## National Historic Site

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8

Teacher Notes: Confederates at Fort Davis

**Topic:** Students will understand the occupation of Fort Davis by soldiers of the Confederate States of America.

**Objectives and Standards:** Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/>

### Grade 6

#### Social Studies

113.22: 1, 22

### Grade 7

#### Social Studies

111.23: 5, 9, 22

### Grade 8

#### Social Studies

111.24: 1, 8, 18, 31

**Materials Needed:** Student activity sheet, pen or pencil, *Handbook of Texas* (online or text version, optional)

**Lesson Activities:** Students will read the student activity sheet and answer the questions. Answering the questions can be done as an individual activity, small group or class discussion.

### Answer Key:

1. General Twiggs was from the South and was sympathetic to the Southern cause.
2. The Confederate States of America government did not have enough money to pay for the soldiers' supplies.
3. The Confederate soldiers did not have enough troops to fight the Indians. The soldiers were bored. They were doing escort duties, which were not as exciting as fighting in the war.

**Historic readings/background information:** *Fort Davis* by Robert M. Utley, National Park Service Historical Handbook Series No. 38; *Teaching with Primary Sources: The Civil War*, Cobblestone Publishing Co.; *Civil War for Kids: A History with 21 Activities*, by Janis Herbert, Chicago Review Press; *Battle Flags of Texans in the Confederacy*, by Alan K. Sumrall, Eakin Press.

**Activities and Projects:** The book *Civil War for Kids* is a good source of projects that students would enjoy. One or more students might make hardtack, which was a staple food for the soldiers. See recipe below. For other recipes or other teaching materials on the "Civil War," see the following website: [www.educationworld.com/](http://www.educationworld.com/)

### Hardtack Recipe:

- \*Mix together 2 cups of flour,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of water, and six pinches of salt.
- \*Flatten dough to a uniform thickness of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.
- \*Cut the dough into 3- or 4-inch squares.

- \*Poke four rows of four holes (16 holes in all) in each dough square.
- \*Bake on baking sheet for 30 minutes at 400 degrees F. (oven temperatures vary, so watch it)
- \*Turn dough over and bake for another 30 minutes.
- \*Turn off the oven, but leave hardtack in the oven until it cools.
- \*Enjoy! (CAUTION—DO NOT BITE DOWN ON IT. IT CAN BREAK YOUR TEETH OR DISLODGE BRACES! Soldiers used to soak it in hot coffee or hot bacon grease to soften it before eating it.)

**Wrap-up and Assessment:** Teacher will evaluate any projects assigned. Students will express their viewpoints about what it was like to be a Confederate soldier on the frontier.